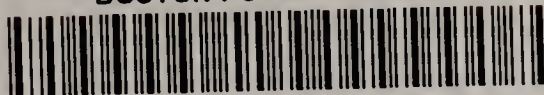


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SECULAR AND ECCLESIASTICAL

HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON,

FROM ITS

FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME.

[John Hatch Bisbee]



ALBANY, N. Y.

WEED, PARSONS AND COMPANY, PRINTERS.

1853.

TO THE
OLD PEOPLE OF WORTHINGTON,

THIS HISTORICAL PAMPHLET IS MOST RESPECTFULLY

Inscribed :

WITH EARNEST WISHES

FOR THEIR HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY,

BY THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E .

FEELING that the unrecorded history of one's native town, like the unmarked graves of parents, evidences both the want of a proper respect and a filial gratitude, we commenced the following chapters, more from a sense of duty, than from motives less worthy of regard. To this sense of duty, was soon added the virtue of necessity, which so often causes a person to hazard that before the public eye, which no motives otherwise could have induced, and no ambition could have prompted.

Taking advantage, therefore, of the recollection of the living and the records of the dead, we place before the people of Worthington a history of their town, asking for its brevity, its imperfections, and its errors, that charity of criticism, which a thoughtful consideration of the many difficulties and disadvantages under which it was written, will naturally suggest.

WORTHINGTON, *July 10th*, 1853.

SECULAR HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWN.

On the 2d of June, 1762, by order of the general court, nine plantations of land were sold at public auction in Boston. These plantations embraced the townships of Cummington and Plainfield, Windsor, Partridgefield (now called Peru and Hinsdale) and Worthington, on the Green Mountains, together with five other towns, situated in different parts of the state. "Plantation No. 3," which extended at that time, on the east, as far as the north branch of the Westfield river, was purchased by Col. Worthington, of Springfield, and Maj. Barnard, of Deerfield, for about £1,500. In honor of the former gentleman, who liberally induced the early settlers to occupy the land, by the erection of a church and a grist-mill, at his own expense, together with a generous assignment of ministerial and school lots for the use of the town, the plantation was called Worthington. The larger part of the first inhabitants of the town came from Connecticut, and the middle and eastern counties of this

state ; among whom was Nathan Leonard, who resided where his grandson, Mr. Alonson Leonard now lives ; and Samuel Clapp, who resided in a log house, near the lot of ground now occupied by what is called the Woodbridge place ; Nathaniel Daniels, who built the first frame house in town, nearly opposite to the dwelling of Mr. Tilson Bartlett ; Nahum Eager, who resided near the place where Mr. Nathaniel Eager now lives, and who was the first representative of the town in the Provincial Congress held at Cambridge ; Doctor Moses Morse, whose house stood on a spot of ground between the dwellings of Mr. Ames Burr and Mr. Medad Ames, now marked by a butternut tree ; John Kinne, who lived on the place now owned by Mr. Jotham Clark ; Ebenezer Leonard, who resided on the place now occupied by the dwelling house of Mr. Ames Burr ; Thomas Clemmons, who lived where Mr. Jonathan Burr now resides ; Benjamin Biglow, who resided in a house situated north and east of what is now called the Jonah Brewster farm ; Thomas Kinne, who lived on the above named farm, and from whom the brook, near that place, took its name ; John Watts, who resided a few rods east of the first church that was built in town ; Ephraim Wheeler, who resided near the spot of ground now occupied by the house of Mr. Harrington ; Mr. Collamore, who lived nearly opposite to Mr. Wheeler's ; Alexander Miller, who resided on the " Buffington place," and who was the first inn-holder in town ; Joseph Marsh, who lived on the place now owned by Mr. Franklin Burr ; Amos Frink, whose house was situated on " Cole-street ;" Abner Dwelly, whose residence was situated on the east side of the road which leads from Capt. Clark's to the church ; Jeremiah Kinne, who resided where Mr. Calvin Tower now lives ;

Stephen and Davis Converse, who resided on the "Elijah Higgins place;" Phinehas Herrick, who resided near where Mr. Amasa Briggs now lives; Joseph Pettingell, and Joshua Phillips, who lived opposite to him, resided on the north side of the road, passing by Mr. John Coit's; Gersham Randall, who resided where Mr. Jonathan Prentice now resides; Daniel Gates, who lived near the place of Abner Dwelly; Asa Cotrell, who resided on the place now owned by Capt. Randall; Asa Burton, whose house stood where that of Mr. Dwight Perry now stands; Zephaniah Hatch, who lived on the place now owned by Mr. Noah Hatch; Nathan Branch, who occupied the place where Mr. Morgan Hall resides; John Buck, whose house stood on the ground lately occupied by that of Capt. Ring; Timothy Meech, who resided on Mr. Wm. Coit's place; Samuel Crosby, who lived where Col. Stone now lives; Daniel Morse and Daniel Morse, Jr., who resided on the farms now owned by Mr. Azariah Parsons and Mr. Silas Marble; John Skiff, who lived on the spot of ground now occupied by the dwelling house of Mr. Horace Cole; James Benjamin who lived on the farm now owned by Mr. Ira Johnson; Beriah Curtis, whose dwelling stood near the ground now occupied by the house of Mr. Alden Curtis; Jonathan Prentice, who lived on the "Cushman place;" Samuel Morse, who resided near the ground now occupied by the dwelling of Capt. James Bisbee; James Wybourn and Israel Honton, who lived nearly opposite to each other, on the road which passes, on the north, the house of Mr. John Adams, near the plot of ground now called "The Vineyard;" Col. Ebenezer Webber, who owned the place now called the Widow Cole farm; Samuel, Robert and Amos Day, who resided on the spot of ground now occupied by the

dwelling house of Mr. Elijah Drury ; Joseph and Isaac Follett, who lived where Mr. Abraham Drake now resides ; Stephen Fitch, who resided nearly opposite to the dwelling now owned by Capt. Cyrus Robinson ; Ezra Cleaveland, who lived on the south side of the road in a house situated in an angle of a lot, north of the dwelling now occupied by Mr. Harvey Dewey ; Samuel Buck, who owned the farm, and erected the house in the year of 1780, now occupied by Mr. Silas Robinson ; Edmund Pettingell, who resided on the farm now owned by Mr. Wm. Cole ; James and John Kelly, whose house was situated where that of Capt. Kelly now stands ; Isaac Herrick, who resided a short distance south of the school house, in Mr. Alden Curtis' district ; Joseph Prentice, who lived on the place now owned by Mr. Alpheus Prentice ; John Partridge, whose house stood nearly one hundred rods north of Mr. Wm. Leonard's, on the west side of the road ; Seth Sylvester, who lived a short distance south of the dwelling house lately owned by Capt. Ring ; Amos Leonard, who owned the farm now occupied by Mr. Amos Cole ; Elijah Gardner, whose house stood nearly west of Ring's factory ; Joseph Dewey, who lived in a house west of the "Buffington Grove" (the land where it stood is now owned by Mr. Horace Cole) ; Luke Boney and Daniel Brunson, who lived in a house that formerly stood in Capt. Buck's orchard — they were the first millers who came into town ; Asa Spaulding, who owned the farm now owned by Capt. Jeremiah Phillips ; Hezekiah Maheuren, who resided east of a grove now owned by Col. Wm. Rice ; John Howard, who occupied the place now owned by Mr. Merrick Cole ; Thomas Hall, who lived west of Col. Oren Stone's, on the farm formerly owned by Mr. Wm. Meech ; Jo-

seph Gardner, who resided opposite to the dwelling house now occupied by Mr. Morris Parsons; Miner Oliver and Capt. Constant Webster, who lived near where Mr. Hiram Bartlett now lives; Joseph Geer, who resided where the late Mr. Wm. Parish lived; Samuel Tower, whose house stood a few rods west of the old church, by Mr. Watts'; Nathaniel Collins, who resided a short distance south of the house of Mr. Isaac Herrick, mentioned above; Reuben Adams, who owned the second saw-mill and the second grist-mill built in town, which were situated near Ringville; John Drury, who lived on what is now called the Drury place; Mathew Finton, whose house stood a few rods east of the spot of ground now occupied by the dwelling house of Mr. Granville B. Hall; James Bemis, who resided on the place now known as "The Widow Granger farm;" Moses Buck, who resided with Mr. John Buck, spoken of before; Thomas Buck, who lived on the farm now owned by Mr. John Coit; Samuel Petingell, whose house stood on a lot now owned by Mr. Wm. Cole, and nearly southeast of Mr. Nathaniel Eager's residence; Noah Morse, who resided on the farm now owned by Mr. Milton Adams; Nehemiah Prouhty, whose house stood on the ground now occupied by that of Mr. Ezekiel Tower; Seth Porter, who lived on the farm now owned by Mr. Jacob Porter; Stephen Howard, whose house stood near the spot of ground now occupied by that of Mr. Henry Bates; Mr. Hickey, who lived in the south part of the town, near where the Methodist church now stands; Elihu Tinker, who resided where the late Mr. John Tinker lived.

In addition to the above named persons, there were living in town, at or near the time of its settlement, the

following individuals, whose places of residence we have been unable to ascertain :

WM. BURR,	THOMAS BUTLER,
JONAS BELLOWS,	SIMEON LEE,
JONATHAN EAMES,	SAMUEL TAYLOR,
Mr. WILKINS,	SAMUEL CLAY,
Mr. RICE,	NATHAN MORGAN,
Mr. FORD,	LEWIS CHURCH,
SAMUEL WILCOX,	JOHN ROSS,
RUFUS STONE,	JAMES TOMSON,
MOSES ASHLEY,	LEWIS PORTER,
JOSEPH FRENCH,	MOSES PORTER,
SAMUEL CONVERSE,	JOSEPH LEE,
ALEXANDER CHILLSON.	

It seems, from the large number of the first inhabitants, that the settlement of the town was rapid from its commencement; and, from the town record, it also appears, that the population steadily increased for a number of years, so that, before the close of the last century, there were more persons living in town than at the present time.

The early inhabitants of Worthington, were men whose characters were formed in that severe school of discipline, where the patient and cheerful endurance of hardships and trials was taught to be a virtue. Commencing their manhood at a time, when the whole energy and valor of the New England Colonies were demanded to resist the encroachments of the French and their Indian allies, they became brave and resolute men. Without the privileges of schools and seminaries—deprived of the advantages of an early education—possessing but the Bible and the spelling book, they yet excelled the present generation in that practical learning, which unites pru-

dence with resolution, and wisdom with goodness. They were men of strong minds, acute discernment, and unerring judgment. When they arose to speak on any subject, in church or town meeting, they expressed themselves with the greatest firmness and perspicuity. Well acquainted with the political affairs of the colonies, they hesitated to act upon none of the various questions brought before the town. While they warned their town meetings, in his Majesty's name, they discussed our relations with Great Britain with unhesitating boldness. They voted that they would keep "good regulations under his Majesty's reign," but at the same time they voted a supply of powder and balls for the use of the town. In liberally raising money for defraying the expenses of the army—in the number of men they promptly sent to the war, and cheerfully supported during its campaigns—in the amount of clothing with which they generously supplied the wants of the soldiers—they were unrivaled by any town on the mountains. Feeling a want of that education, which circumstances had denied to them, they took the earliest opportunity to found schools, and to raise money to defray their expense. Believing in the doctrines of the same religion, they, like their descendants, with commendable unanimity, always steadily and zealously supported the preaching of the Gospel. Such are some of the peculiar traits that marked the characters of the first settlers of this town. Leaving a climate much milder than that of the mountains to which they had removed—arriving here, as many of them did, at the commencement of one of our severe winters, with their wives and their children, after a journey of ten and twelve days on horseback, guided only by the marks on the trees—sleeping

in log houses, hastily prepared, or, as was often the case, upon the ground—deprived of nearly all of those comforts and luxuries of life, in which their eastern homes had commenced to abound—procuring their food from the forest and their water from the brooks—without chairs, without tables, without anything, save a small quantity of food, brought with them for their present subsistence—did the first inhabitants of the town, eighty-nine years ago, commence the settlement of Worthington.

CHAPTER II.

INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN, ROADS, ETC.

DURING the session of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, in 1768, a bill was passed for “creating the New Plantation, called Number Three, in the county of Hampshire, into a town by the name of Worthington.” The limits of the town, as recognized by this bill, extended at that time from the Partridgefield line on the west, to the north branch of the Westfield river on the east; while the northern and southern boundaries were defined nearly the same as they remain at the present day. In pursuance of this act of Congress, Hon. Israel Williams, who had been empowered by the General Court to call a meeting of the inhabitants of this town, issued the following warrant: “These are, therefore, in his Majesty’s name, to require you, Nathan Leonard, to notify and warn the inhabitants of Worth-

ington, that they assemble together at the house of Alexander Miller, innholder in said town, on the first Monday in August next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, then and there in public meeting to choose all such officers, as towns within this province are impowered and enabled by law to choose in the month of March annually. Hereof, you Nathan may not fail. Given under my hand and seal, at Hatfield in Hampshire county, this eleventh day of July, in the eighth year of his Majestie's reign, anno Domini 1769*

ISRAEL WILLIAMS, *Jus. Pacis*"

By virtue of the above warrant, the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town met at the inn of Alexander Miller, on Monday, the first day of August, and chose Captain Nathan Leonard, Moderator; Mr. Nahum Eager, Town Clerk; Captain Nathaniel Daniels, Captain Nathan Leonard, and Mr. John Kinne, Selectmen; Mr. Benjamin Biglow and Mr. Thomas Kinne, Wardens; Mr. Thomas Clemmons, Constable and Leather Sealer; Mr. Samuel Clapp and Dr. Moses Morse, Surveyors of Highways; Mr. Nahum Eager and Mr. Ephraim Wheeler, Fence Viewers; Mr. John Watts, Tithingman. These were the first officers chosen by the town. At a subsequent meeting, Amos Frink and Ebenezer Webber were chosen Deer-reeves. The business of the town, for the first two years after its incorporation, consisted principally in surveying and laying out roads.

Among the first of the roads that were thus surveyed by the town, was one which, in the fertile imaginations

* This date is doubtless wrong, since the eighth year of his Majesty's reign would have taken place in 1768, having commenced on the 25th of October, 1760.

of the selectmen, was called "The direct road through Worthington to Boston and Albany." This road was laid out, so as to connect with the Chesterfield road, at the "Gate," and, running west, to lead by the farms now owned by Mr. Harrington and Mr. Drury, till it reached the "Buffington place," where stood, at that time, the inn of Alexander Miller. From this place, it was laid out directly north, till it passed the house of Mr. Tilson Bartlett, and then it was continued north and west, passing through a part of Peru and Windsor, till it intersected a road which led more directly to Pittsfield. Subsequently this road was changed, so as to lead directly to the inn of Capt. Nathaniel Daniels from "The Corners." This change was made by the town, so as to prevent any travel by the house of Alexander Miller, who favored the cause of Great Britain, and to secure the same to Capt. Nathaniel Daniels, who was a zealous patriot. In after years, "*to make the road more straight and direct,*" the town laid it out over what is now called Snake Hill. The second road of importance which the town surveyed led from Cummington to Chester. This road extended through Cole-street, and passed the inn of Captain Daniels and the Buffington place, till it intersected a road near where Mr. Alden Curtis now lives; and from there crossed directly to Middle river, where it continued on the banks of that stream till it reached Chester. During these two years, the town laid out and surveyed twelve cross-roads, all of which, except two, have become obsolete, as it regards travel. On the 17th of April, 1770, the town voted to raise "£45 for repairing the highways, and to pay for men's labor on the road, 3s per day, for that of a yoke of oxen, 1s and 6d, for use of a plow, 8d." Previous to the year of 1768, there was

scarcely a road in town ; all journeys, at that time, were performed over trails, or paths marked by cut or girdled trees. To go to Northampton and back, without infringing on the sacredness of either of the Sabbaths that bound the week, was considered by the farmers as a recommendation for the speed and endurance of their horses. A journey to Boston, or to Albany, was prefaced by the prayers of the church, and the safe return of the individual who hazarded it, was the cause of thanksgiving and public rejoicing. Quilting, at that time, as now, was one of the practical amusements of the ladies in town ; but the preparations which preceded a quilting party were much more extensive than at present, on account of the distance from which the inhabitants lived from each other, and the almost impassable state of the roads or paths. To attend a "quilting" at the more distant parts of the town, as it was the practice then, was an absence from home of no less than three days ; the first of which was spent in going, the second in quilting, and the third was consumed in returning. A mother, before starting on one of these expeditions, was obliged to bake a sufficient supply for the family at home ; and if she was so fortunate, or unfortunate, as to have the care of an infant, she was under the necessity of putting it out with the neighbors, to be nursed, till she should return.

The town, through its clerk, commenced in 1769 to publish the bans of matrimony. The following is copied from among the earliest recorded :

"These may certify to whom it may concern that the bands of matrimony have been published as the law directs between John Leonard of Preston in the Colony

of Connecticut and County of New London and Sarah Pierce of Worthington.

Attest

NAHUM EAGER

Town Clerk

WORTHINGTON *April 6th 1770.*"

Preceding the action which the town took in regard to the Revolutionary War, it chose a committee, in accordance with an act of the General Court, for the Massachusetts Bay, to prevent oppression and monopoly, in consequence of the effect of the non-importation act. This committee fixed the following prices to labor, and all the articles of merchandize bought and sold in town:

	£.	s.	d.
Men's labor in time of harvest and haying, per day,	0	3	0
At other seasons in the summer, " "	0	2	8
In the fall and winter, " "	0	2	0
Women's labor, per week,	0	3	0
Wheat, per bush.,	0	6	0
Rye, " "	0	4	0
Indian Corn, " "	0	3	0
Peas, " "	0	6	0
White Beans, " "	0	6	0
Oats, " "	0	1	8
Spanish potatoes, " "	0	1	0
Wool, per pound	0	2	0
Flax, " "	0	1	0
Grass fed beef, " "	0	0	2-2
Stall " "	0	0	3-2
Pork, " "	0	0	3-3
Cheese, " "	0	0	5 0
Butter, " "	0	0	8 0
Stockings, good wool,	0	6	0 0
Shoes, calf skin,	0	8	0 0
Pork, barrels containing eleven score per bbl.	4	0	0 0
Beef, " " twelve "	3	2	6 0
Tow cloth, per yard	0	0	2-3
Flannel, " "	0	3	6 0
Horse keeping for twenty-four hours,	0	0	10 0
Ox " " "	0	1	4 0

		£.	s.	d.
English hay out of the field in summer,	per ton	1	4	0 0
Out of the stack in winter,	“ “	1	10	0 0
Out of the barn in spring,	“ “	1	15	0 0
Salt,	per bush.	1	4	0 0
N. E Rum by the hogshead,	per gall.	0	4	10 0
“ “ by the single gallon	“ “	0	5	6 0
“ “ “ the single quart,	0	1	6 0
West India rum, by hogshead,	“ “	0	7	8 0
“ “ by single gallon,	“ “	0	8	6 0
Sugar, by hogshead,	per hundred,	3	4	0 0
“ “ single pound,	0	0	9 0

CHAPTER III.

THE PART WHICH THE TOWN TOOK IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, TOGETHER WITH A LIST OF THE NAMES OF THE SOLDIERS IN THE WAR OF 1812.

Nearly a year before the first battles of the Revolution at Lexington and Concord, the inhabitants of this town were taking an earnest interest in regard to the political relations of the colonies with Great Britain. In the spring of 1774, the British government, in a spirit of revenge upon Massachusetts, and especially on Boston, for the determined spirit with which the town had refused to submit to the payment of a duty upon tea, passed a bill, by which the citizens of Boston were denied the privilege of landing or shipping goods. To carry this bill into effect, the government of Great Britain took possession of the port of Boston. The intelligence of these proceedings aroused the inhabitants of this town

to the greatest degree of excitement, and called out the following preamble and warrant: "Whereas, a number of the inhabitants of Worthington have desired a town meeting to be warned, for the purpose of taking into consideration, the alarming circumstances of the times, in regard to the trade and commerce of the town of Boston, and the towns of America in general—to the constable of the town of Worthington, greeting in his Majesty's name. You are hereby required forthwith to warn all the inhabitants of the town of Worthington, that they meet at the Meeting-house, in said town, on Tuesday the 28th day of June 1774, at two of the clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following articles. Firstly, to choose a moderator; secondly, to hear the letters read sent from the committee of correspondence at Boston; thirdly, to say in what, since you would be understood in favour of the inhabitants of Boston. fourthly to say if you will do anything for the relief or encouragement of the town of Boston."

Pursuant to the above warrant, the town met, and chose Capt. Ebenezer Leonard as Chairman, and Nathan Leonard, Nahum Eager, Nathaniel Daniels, Thomas Kinne and Moses Morse, a committee of correspondence. This committee of correspondence immediately communicated with the committee of safety at Boston, promising the zealous co-operation of the town for their encouragement, and all the means in their power for their relief. The threatening state of affairs, and the earnest correspondence of the committee of safety at Boston, caused the selectmen, a few weeks after the above mentioned meeting, to issue a warrant, calling upon all of the inhabitants of the town who were soldiers, and all who were obliged to keep arms, to assemble at the meet-

ing-house, for the purpose of choosing military officers.

On the opening of the campaign of 1777,* a number of the young men of the town, without arms or ammunition, offered to join the army of Washington, at Morristown, N. J. The town, thereupon, voted that "the selectmen shall be empowered to draw powder and arms, for any person or persons that shall apply for the same, and to send money to purchase the same, agreeable to a resolve of the General Assembly of this state;" at the same time, the town voted that a petition should be presented to the General Assembly, to have a store of blankets, to draw out of, when needed upon an emergency, for the town. In 1778, the want of shoes and clothing in the army called upon the sympathy and patriotism of the State of Massachusetts, for its relief. Worthington generously responded to a part of this demand, by raising £120 for the suffering soldiers. On the 3d of November, 1779, the town voted to raise £600, as a tax, to pay for twelve blankets, and bounties for the soldiers last raised. The number of soldiers that the town raised this year was twelve, six to serve six months, and the remainder twelve months. On the 3d of June, 1780, the town voted £200 as a bounty to each soldier, and three pounds per month in addition, valuing the Continental money in wheat, at five shillings, rye at three shillings, and corn at two shillings and sixpence per bushel. In July, 1780, the town voted that each of the soldiers raised by the town should have £150 as bounty,

* The action of the inhabitants of the town, during the three following years, from 1774 to 1777, in regard to the war, has no record. The probable reason for this omission, for so long a period, is the fact, that in the early campaigns, most of the soldiers from the mountain towns voluntarily joined the army; and no record, but that of town business, has been preserved.

to be paid to them in two months from the above date. During this year, the cavalry became so reduced in the army, that Congress was obliged to call upon the States for a supply of horses. The requisition of the State of Massachusetts, upon the town of Worthington, was for so great a number of horses, that the town was obliged to pass the following resolve: "Voted, that the town will give security on the town, if they can not provide the horses sent for, at the stated price."

The wants of the army, at the close of the campaign of 1779, again aroused the sympathies of the country for its relief. Early in the spring of 1780, the General Assembly for the State of Massachusetts, passed a bill, requiring each town to raise, by tax, a certain amount for the purchase of clothing for the army. In accordance with this act, the town voted to raise £2,130 for supplying the army with the clothing required. During the same year, the town raised £5,000,* to supply, in part, the army with beef, as required by an act of the General Assembly, passed on the 25th of Sept., 1780. In May, 1781, a committee from Congress visited the army, and became more thoroughly acquainted with its distress and destitution. They reported to Congress, soon afterwards, the situation of the army, in the following words, viz: "That the army was unpaid for five months; that it seldom had more than six days' provision in advance, and was, on several occasions, for sundry successive days, without meat; that the medical department had neither sugar, tea, coffee, chocolate, wine nor

* Bills of credit were first issued by Congress, in June, 1775, to the amount of two millions of dollars. At the expiration of eighteen months, twenty millions had been issued. By the year 1780, the amount in circulation was two hundred millions. At an early period, these bills began to depreciate, and continued to do so till their circulation was limited by Congress, in 1780.

spirituous liquors of any kind; and that every department of the army was without money, and had not even the shadow of credit left."

What effect this report had on the inhabitants of this town, may be seen in their patriotic action. During this year, the town raised fifteen men to serve in the Continental army, for three years, granting each one forty shillings advance pay, and four pounds per month, and also sent four thousand weight of beef to supply, in part, the wants of the army.

The trials and hardships which the majority of the families in town endured, during the war, will scarcely be credited by the present generation. Happy in the freedom which had been won, and joyful at the return of peace, too seldom did the mothers and sisters of the soldiers who went from this town recite their sufferings to their descendants, for us at the present day fully to understand, and appreciate their self-denials and sacrifices. The females of many families worked on the farms of their husbands and brothers, during the greater part of their absence in the war. Many ploughed their own lands, sowed their grain, and planted and hoed their corn during the spring; in the summer and fall gathered their hay and harvests; in the winter months fed and took care of the cattle in the barns, drove them to the brooks for water, and oftentimes yoked their oxen, and went to the woods to cut the fuel necessary for their use. So few of the male inhabitants, at this period, did patriotism leave in town, that at no time during the interval between the years of 1779 and 1782, were there above ten or twelve men, out of over seventy families living in town, who attended church on the Sabbath. At length, the destitution of the families of those persons

who had joined the army, became so great, that on the 10th of October, 1777, the General Court of Massachusetts was obliged to pass a bill, by which each town was required "to appoint a committee to supply the families of the soldiers who were engaged in the Continental army with the necessaries of life." Pursuant to this act, the town of Worthington appointed Jonathan Brewster, Moses Porter and Wm. Burr, as a committee to take care of the families of the soldiers, while engaged in service.

The following is a list of the names of those soldiers, as far as it has been able to be ascertained, who served in the Revolutionary war. That the list falls much below the actual number who joined the army, there can be but little doubt, since many persons sent their hired men to the war, whose names are not now known :

Samuel Dewey,	Jeremiah Kinne,	} killed.
Barnabas Clapp,	Samuel Cole,	
Lemuel Clapp,	Daniel Goodman,	
Isaac Clapp,	Gershom Brown,	
Stephen Clapp,	John Howard,	
Gershom Randall,	David Woods,	
Samuel Buffington,	Samuel Follett,*	
Nathaniel Daniels, Jr.,	Jonas Leonard,	
John Daniels,	Asa Cottrell,	
Samuel Daniels,	Nicholas Cottrell,	
Dan. Daniels,	Samuel Petingell.	

* Samuel Follett, who is still living in this town, was born on the 23d of Nov., 1757, in the town of Attleborough, Bristol county, Mass. He joined the army when he was in his eighteenth year, where he remained fifteen months, serving in the regiment commanded by Col. Reed at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He came into this town before the close of the war, in 1781, where he has resided ever since. His first vote was cast for Gen. Washington, for President of the United States, when he was thirty-two years of age; his last for Gen. Scott, when he was ninety-six.

Elisha Brewster,*	Ephraim Parish,
Richard Briggs,	Timothy Meech,
Israel Burr,	Asa Benjamin,
Roger Benjamin,	John Stone,
Thomas Buck,	Nahum Eager,
Asa Jackson,	Lott Drake,
Sylvanus Parsons,	Jonathan Ring,
Moses Buck,	Rufus Marsh,
Samuel Kingman,	Joseph Marsh, Jr.,
Alexander Kingman,	Joshua Morse.

SOLDIERS OF 1812.

Commissioned Officers.

William Ward,	William Rice.
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Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates.

Thomas Hall,	James Hatch,
Joseph Starkweather,	Barnabas Anable,
Nehemiah Tinker,	Perkins Fitch,
Alfred Brown,	Milton Brewster,
John Cushing,	William Brewster,
Henry Warner,	Rufus Taylor,
Timothy Parsons,	Obadiah Tower,
David Parsons,	Elijah Burr,
Luther Bartlett,	Richard Briggs,
Ezekiel Tower,	Joseph Daily,
Daniel Parish,	Harvey Metcalf,

* Elisha Brewster was born in Preston, Conn., on the 25th of February, 1755, where he resided until the commencement of the Revolutionary war. He early enlisted as a volunteer into a regiment of light dragoons, for and during the war, and served to its close, as an officer of the same, during the period of seven years and six months.

His regiment was exercised in cavalry tactics by Count Pulaski, the distinguished Poland disciplinarian, who first introduced cavalry tactics in this country. After the close of the war, he served as Captain of cavalry and Brigade Quartermaster.

At the time of Shay's Insurrection, he volunteered his services to General Shepard, at Springfield, and was appointed one of his aids, on that memorable

CHAPTER IV.

CHURCHES, PUBLIC LANDS, ETC.

The original proprietors of the town, to encourage the rapid settlement of the plantation, erected a church, in the year of 1764, near the spot of ground occupied by the house of the late Mr. John Watts. The immediate district surrounding the church, at this time, was an unbroken wilderness. A few years subsequent to the above date, the inhabitants of the town assembled together, and agreed, "that every male person living in the plantation, of sixteen years of age and upwards, should spend one day in cutting and clearing away the forest about the meeting-house." The church was but partially finished, internally, by Mr. Worthington, but it appears that the town worshiped in it, nevertheless, with all of its inconveniences, till the year of 1780, when it was

occasion. Subsequently, he was employed by Government to take the oaths of the insurgents for their allegiance to the Commonwealth.

He held various offices of trust in town, and was chosen to represent its interests in the General Court, in 1806. Joined to the great exposure and suffering which he experienced in the army, was a slender constitution, which, in the latter period of his life, so enfeebled his health, that he was unable to take an active part in the affairs of the town.

While in the army, he experienced many hard fought battles, always charging into the very midst of the contest, with an impetuosity and courage which no prudence could restrain. He was a fine looking officer, and in daring and horsemanship no one excelled him in the army. As a civilian, he retained that dignity and courtesy which so often mark the officers of the army, and always bore with him, in the intercourse with his fellow men, that affability and gentlemanly feeling, which so eminently characterised his younger brother, Mr. Jonah Brewster. He died on the 25th of Sept., 1833.

remodeled, but not entirely finished. Previous to the time stated above, the church had no pulpit, but a temporary stage erected in its stead. The seats for the congregation, were composed of benches, made from boards nailed to movable supports. The aged part of the congregation, brought chairs with them, for their own ease and comfort during the service. On the 29th of March, 1780, the town voted to build a pulpit, two deacons' seats, four seats on each side of the broad aisle, and also to lay the gallery floor and stairs. The remaining pew locations were drawn by lot, on the following conditions: That the pews "should be finished at a stated time, and that each one should finish the back, up to the galley girt." In May, 1791, the unfinished state of the church, inside, aroused the public spirit, and called together the inhabitants of the town, when they passed the following resolution: "Voted, to have the Meeting house taken down,—moved—erected, and every way finished, by the 1st day of Dec, in the year 1792, and that the whole expense, accruing therefrom, shall be paid by the inhabitants of the town, by the first day of Dec aforesaid, in the following articles, viz, one fourth part to be paid in cash, and the remainder to be paid in good neat cattle, or Indian corn, or rye, or flax, or beef, or pork." At a subsequent meeting, the town voted to have all the pews in the meeting-house, sold at public auction to the highest bidder. The amount for which these pews sold, was £601.8s, lawful money. When the new church was built, those persons who had paid for pews in the old church, were entitled to have the amount deducted which they had advanced, in purchasing the pews in the new building. This church occupied part of the ground now lying between the store of Messrs. Sidney Brewster

and Son, and the dwelling house of Mr. S. N. Parish. In the year of 1825, after a controversy too lengthy to be recorded, the town voted to build the church which is worshiped in at the present time.

Churches of the Methodist Societies.

The Methodist society at the southern extremity of the town, in the year of 1828, erected a church by subscription, which was worshiped in for twenty years. In the year of 1848, a plan was drawn of a small but neat and beautiful church, from which the model pews were sold to defray the expense of building. The new church accordingly was erected, and dedicated in the following year. In 1848, a new society of the Methodist denomination was formed in the west part of the town. By the liberality of a few individuals, the church in which religious service is now regularly performed was erected. The church was dedicated in the year of 1849.

Public Lands.

Soon after the purchase of this plantation, Col. Worthington made the town a donation of nearly 1200 acres of land. This land was divided into twelve sections, and was situated in different parts of the town. Six of these sections were called ministerial lots, and the remainder school lots. The object of this donation was to supply the town with the preaching of the Gospel, and to defray the expenses of the town schools by the rent of these lands. However generous the gift, and noble the motives which prompted it, the town for a long time realized little or nothing from them, since they remained uncleared and uncultivated. Four of these

lots were leased a few years after the incorporation of the town. The remaining eight were rented in 1780.

The following is a report of the committee appointed to dispose of the lots :

WORTHINGTON *Dec* 18th 1780

We the subscribers, being a committee, chosen by the town of Worthington to dispose of the ministerial and school land belonging to said town have given leases to the following persons of the land above mentioned for the term of nine hundred and ninety nine years, viz

To E. Williams the school lot No 125 for the sum of ten bushels and four fifths o
good wheat yearly.

				£.	s.	d.
To Daniel Chapman	school lot	No 223	for	57	0	0
To Joseph Marsh	" "	No 57	"	160	0	0
To Joseph Brown	" "	No 175	"	123	0	0
To Edmund Petingell Jun,	Min'l lot	No 190	"	100	0	0
To Timothy Meech	" "	No 75	"	90	0	0
To Samuel Buck east half	" "	No 18	"	55	0	0
To Asham Fanning west half	" "	No 18	"	55	0	0
To Levi Flint	" "	No 91	"	66	10	0

Taken obligations of the above cited persons

JOHN KINNE	} <i>Town</i> <i>Commit</i> <i>tee</i>
STEPHEN FITCH	
JONATHAN BREWSTER	

Common Schools.

The subject of education early engaged the attention of the town, and received steadily the support and encouragement of the law. Considering the district school-house as an insurance building, where the morals and the virtue of the community were exempted from all hazard, by the corruption which arises from ignorance, the town at once, after its incorporation, paid its premium from its scanty means, and received its policy, which will run out only with eternity. The pecuniary embarrassments experienced by the inhabitants of the town at

its first settlement, and the active and liberal part which they took in the war with Great Britain soon after, furnishes them with a silent apology for the limited allowances which at first were granted for the maintenance of common schools. When we remember that, for the first four years, the expenses of the town, though amounting to only forty pounds, were obliged to be defrayed with borrowed money; when we consider that the state taxes, from the want of hard money, were obliged to be paid in produce; when we contemplate the extreme low price of all kinds of labor, we are rather surprised at what the town done for the support of common schools, than at what, in their necessity, they were prevented from doing. On the 19th of March, 1771, the town voted to raise ten pounds, silver money, for the support of common schools. After the close of the war, this sum was increased at first to twenty pounds, and afterwards to thirty; till at length, before the close of the last century, it amounted to sixty pounds annually. At the present time, and for the last ten years, the town has appropriated a medial sum of over \$1400, including teachers' board and fuel, for the support of common schools annually. In 1772, the town was divided into five districts. The limits of these districts, changing from time to time as the population increased, which, together with the addition of new ones, makes it difficult to trace their boundaries with any accuracy. In the year of 1833, the town voted to choose a committee of ten persons, one from each district, to re-divide the town into districts. This committee reported an additional district, with some alterations in the limits of the old ones. The first school house, composed of logs, was erected in 1773, near the ground now occupied by the

dwelling house of Mr. John Adams. At the present time, eighty years from the above date, there are ten district school houses in town.

The Academy.

ILLIUM FUIT.*

CHAPTER V.

THE MINISTRY.

The town, for the first seven years after its settlement, was supplied with the preaching of the Gospel by ministers from the neighboring towns, who were paid for their services by voluntary contributions. On the 3d of April, 1771, the town voted "to have the Rev. Jonathan Huntington for their minister." At the same time, the town voted to raise forty pounds for his support in the ministry, and to raise four pounds each year, till it amounted to sixty pounds, which, after that time, was to be paid to him annually. Subsequently, the town voted to raise

* When the Romans looked back with pride at one moment to the glory of Troy, and at the next with grief to its destruction by the Greeks, under the command of Nestor, Achilles, the two Ajaxes, and other Grecian princes, they were accustomed to exclaim, in the bitterness of their feelings, *Ilium fuit*—Troy was.

A commentator upon these words of Virgil remarks, that "it was a custom among the Romans, when they would intimate the destruction of anything which reflected glory upon their nation, to say *fuit*, so as to shun sounds that were *shocking*, and accounted of bad omen.

fifty pounds by subscription for Mr. Huntington, and sixty pounds for his yearly support; to be paid in wheat at six shillings, rye at four shillings, corn at three shillings per bushel, and other necessaries of life at their market value. Some dissatisfaction having arisen in regard to the manner of maintaining Mr. Huntington, and a few individuals refusing to contribute for his support, the selectmen of the town issued, on the 31st of March, 1777, the following preamble and warrant: "Whereas, when Mr. Huntington settled with us in the ministry in this town, he told us he would have no straightning for rates, and would have no money, raised in that way; and notwithstanding the town did unanimously agree to support Mr. Huntington by tax, or liberality, as by the vote of said town, it will appear; and sundry of the inhabitants refuse or neglect to pay their proportion of agreement, or covenant, or contract—These are therefore to warn all of the inhabitants, who have a right to vote, by a late vote of this town, to meet together on Tuesday the 8th day of April, next, at two of the clock in the afternoon, at the Meeting house in said town, then and there to act on the following articles,

"In the first place, to see if the town will shift their former method of supporting Mr. Huntington; in the second place, if so voted, then, to consider what way or method to come into, upon consideration."

To this dissatisfaction on the part of a few individuals, Mr. Huntington magnanimously replied to the town in the following letter:

"Whereas, when I was settled, in this town, in the work of the ministry, on the 26th of June, in the year of our Lord 1771, I made known my principals and senti-

ments to the people, when I accepted their call to the work of the ministry ; and likewise before, and after my ordination, that it was contrary to my principals to ever have the civil law take place, to support the Gospel, and that I would have no money raised in that way ; and since it has been my principal ever since, and still is, that the civil law has nothing to do with the support of the Gospel ; and, whereas, there arises some uneasiness in some minds, with regard to their paying their proportion of the covenant, which they made with me for my support in the Gospel way, because I have it in the power of my hand, to make the town pay all of the arrearages and interest that is behind, and so, that they shall have more than their proportion to pay—for which reason some refuse to pay ;

“ therefore to remove all difficulties that lay in such minds, and to minister my principals, if possible, more fully for the glory of God, and the peace of the church and people—these are therefore to give a full discharge to the town, of all that I might require of them by the civil law, since I have been ordained among them even to the present day ; and furthermore I nor my heirs never will nor shall bring any action against the town for my service in the ministry so long as God in His providence shall continue me here ; and furthermore it is my design and desire, that notwithstanding I give this lawful discharge to the town, that I look upon myself as much holden to them to serve them as before and that the town is as much holden to support me a Gospel way.

JONATHAN HUNTINGTON.

To the Selectmen and town }
of Worthington” }

The town, at the next meeting, unanimously voted to support the Rev. Jonathan Huntington by a free contribution of sixty pounds a year, to be paid to him quarterly.

On the 20th of May, 1788, the Rev. Josiah Spaulding was invited by the town to settle with them in the work of the ministry. His salary, during the first year of his ministry, was one hundred pounds. The reply to this invitation of the town by Mr. Spaulding, has no record.

On the 6th of August, 1794, the town voted unanimously to give the Rev. Jonathan L. Pomeroy a call to settle in the work of the ministry, and also voted to give him for the first year, as a salary, one hundred and eighty pounds, lawful money, and ever after that, as long as he should continue in the work of the ministry, one hundred and ten pounds, together with thirty cords of fire wood, to be paid annually. The following is Mr. Pomeroy's reply :

“To the Church and people }
of Worthington, }

“BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,

“The call which I have received from you to settle in the work of the ministry in this town, I have attentively and prayfully considered, and have concluded to accept.—The advice of my friends—the apparent harmony among this people—a consideration of the division, which in the opinion of many of you, as it has been manifested to me would probably take place, should you employ a number of candidates—all these things have operated powerfully with me to bring me to this determination.—The liberality of the town, considering the sums which have usually been paid to ministers in this part of the country, I readily acknowledge to be great; and the generosity of

individuals, I also recognise with gratitude as a testimony of esteem for me, and good wishes for the peace and happiness of this society.—What umbrage my unwillingness to comply with former customs may occasion, I cannot determine—No objections of any considerable consequence have come to my knowledge, respecting this article.—Should there be uneasiness in the minds of many—my continuance among you cannot be for your advantage, and should it be exhibited before it is too late, I shall not view myself bound by any thing contained in this answer, to make a permanent settlement with you.—With the warmest wishes for your lasting union and prosperity, spiritual and temporal,

I am Gentlemen unfeignedly your
friend and obedient serv't

JONATHAN LAW. POMEROY

WORTHINGTON, *Oct 14th 1794,*"

On the 5th of Nov., 1833, the town voted to give the Rev. Henry Adams a call to settle in the ministry with the Congregational Society of Worthington, and to offer him the sum of six hundred dollars for his yearly salary. Mr. Adams made the following answer to the town:

“To the Congregational Church and }
Society in Worthington, }

“BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,

“Your invitation to me to settle with you in the ministry, has been communicated to me by your committee. In answer to it, I would say, that I see no sufficient reasons, why I should not comply with it.—I have long devoted myself to the spiritual benefit of my fellow men, and considering the unanimity of feeling, manifested in

favour of my remaining with you, I see not why I may not be as useful here in the cause, to which I have devoted myself, as in any other field of labor.—I confess that my mind instinctively shrinks from the responsibilities of a Christian minister, and well it may if my confidence, is any thing like self confidence. But I trust in God, that He will sustain me. Relying upon Him, that He will give me His guidance, and the comforting aid of His spirit, I answer your letter in the affirmative.—The sum mentioned in the invitation of the society, as a means of support, is no doubt sufficient for every reasonable purpose, and is therefore satisfactory.—That also which is said in reference to the manner, in which our connexion may be dissolved, coincides entirely with my own feelings in reference to the subject.—With the prayer that God would bless my efforts for your benefit I am

Your servant in the ministry

H. ADAMS”

On the 20th of September, 1838, Mr. Adams, on account of ill health, which had for some time obliged him to cease from his labors, addressed the following letter to the church and society :

“To the Congregational Church and }
Society in Worthington, }

“BELOVED BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,

“It has seemed to be my duty, no longer to delay making a communication of the views, in which my mind has been for some time becoming fixed, in reference to the prospect of my being able to resume again my labors, as your minister.—The fact ought not to be concealed from you that my expectations of being able to

preach within any period of time not remote, have been continually diminishing since ceasing from my labors, till the present time, and now I cannot say that I think there is any reason to hope, that I shall be able to do it.—This being the case, your interest seems to require, that I should retire from my station, and make room for some other person to occupy my place. Accordingly, I would hereby request you to join with me in dissolving the relation, which we hold to each other.—As the circumstances of the case prevents the necessity of my giving the six months notice of my intention of my leaving, which was the basis of our connection,—I will therefore say that you are at liberty to proceed immediately to make arrangements for obtaining as soon as may be an individual, to supply my place. Hoping that you may succeed, in that you may soon find a man after God's own heart, and that you may enjoy uninterrupted temporal and spiritual prosperity.

I remain most affectionately Yours,

HENRY ADAMS"

On the 10th of Nov., 1838, the town voted to give the Rev. John H. Bisbee, the present pastor of the church, an invitation to settle over the Congregational Society as its minister; voted also, if he accepts, to give him six hundred dollars annually as his salary, so long as he shall continue to be minister and pastor of said society. The following is a copy of Mr. Bisbee's reply:

"To the Church and Society }
in Worthington. }

"BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,

"Having received from you, through your Committee, an invitation to settle with you in the work of the Gospel

Ministry, I hereby inform you, that after due deliberation, and prayer, I consider it my duty to accept said invitation. I will therefore be in readiness to unite with you, when desirable in making the necessary arrangements, preparatory to my installation. Wishing you grace, mercy and peace

I remain Yours &c

J. H. BISBEE"



CHAPTER VI.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE MOST PROMINENT MEN WHO HAVE RESIDED IN THE TOWN.

Doctor MOSES MORSE was educated at the University of Cambridge, in England, and subsequently practiced his profession, as physician and surgeon, in the hospitals of Liverpool and London. From the commencement of the Revolutionary war, he appears, by the town records, to have inclined in his prejudices towards the cause of Great Britain, and to have shown himself to have been as notorious as a tory as he was eminent as a physician. By shrewdness and tact, he influenced the town to pass a vote, in 1774, making the Non-importation act in regard to tea, which the town a few years before had covenanted to maintain, null and void. In 1777, his talents procured him a seat in the General Court, where he

remained but a short time, having been recalled and censured, on account of his flagrant toryism, by the following resolution, passed by the town on the 14th of January, 1777: "Voted that Doct Moses Morse, for his misconduct in refusing to act in behalf of the town, relative to a petition, and saying that he would oppose it with all of his might, directly contrary to the vote of this town, ought not, in justice to the cause for which, we are now contending with Great Britain sit any longer as a Representative in the General Court for this town." This petition was a request made by the town to the Massachusetts Legislature, to have its unimproved land taxed, to assist in defraying the expenses of the war.

In spite of the ill-will and prejudice which his conduct at this time occasioned, he subsequently was appointed by the town to act on important committees, on account of his eminent talents and ability.

In character, he appears to have been an antipathetic, dogmatical person, whose affections and sympathies differed entirely from those of his neighbors, and whose desire always to be classed in the ranks of those who opposed their cause, robbed him of that respect and esteem which his abilities otherwise would have won.

He died near the close of the last century, in a fit of apoplexy. His body was borne to the grave on the shoulders of Revolutionary soldiers, whom during most of his life he had opposed.

The coffin in which he was carried burst open on the shoulders of his neighbors before they reached the grave, which was nearly a mile from his residence, causing the corpse to roll upon the ground, and manifesting, as one of the soldier bearers quaintly expressed it, that "habitual contrariness which was so characteristic of him."

EZRA STARKWETHER, who was born on the 15th of Dec., 1754, in Stonington, Conn., was the eldest of nine sons, four of whom early enlisted in the service of their country, and lost their lives in the Revolutionary struggle. Near the commencement of the war, the subject of this notice, who had just entered his profession as physician in the town of Preston, Conn., abandoned his practice and immediately joined the army, which at that time was stationed at Crown Point. At the expiration of six months his health failed him, and he was obliged to leave the army, for which he had so zealously and patriotically relinquished a lucrative practice. Upon leaving the army, he returned to Preston and resumed his profession, where he remained until near the year 1785, when he removed to this town.

To the worth of Ezra Starkwether, his adopted town have borne ample testimony. He represented the town as a member of the Legislature during six years, and gained for himself as a legislator that respect which talent, joined with integrity, so often wins. He was a member of the Senate from 1803 to 1813, inclusive, and also in 1815-16 and 1817. In 1820, he was chosen by the town as a member of the State Convention, held at Boston, for the purpose of revising the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

Although he was honored during so many successive years with the emoluments of office, yet his pacific and controlling character was felt, if possible, more in the church than in general society.

He was the great pacificator in the difficulties of the church, and the great compromiser in the dissensions of the town. His words fell on the angry elements of discord as 'oil upon troubled waters.' He listened with

attention and respect to the arguments and claims of both parties in controversy, and decided between the right and the wrong with a just and unprejudiced arbitration.

He was easy and facetious in conversation, affable in his disposition, and courteous in his manners. He died on the 27th of July, 1834.

JONATHAN BREWSTER, Jr., the subject of this notice, was born in November, 1759, in the town of Preston, New London county, Conn. Starting in life at the close of one war, and at the commencement of a controversy which led to a second, he had the advantage of both of those periods of existence, when the fresh recollection of patriotic devotion and self-sacrifice in the past, and the hopes of usefulness and distinction in the future, tend to awaken the better impulses of human nature and produce men of firm and unchangeable characters. He had the advantage, too, with a father ardently inclined to the cause of the colonies, and an elder brother engaged in the war, of becoming familiar with all the details of his country's dispute with Great Britain, and of the conflict which was to end it.

How far a family interest in the struggle for our National Independence, and in the twelve years' conflict of words which preceded it,—how far a domestic sympathy in the wants and dangers of an army struggling for freedom, tended to produce and form a class of men of strong and resolute minds, let that difference answer which so plainly exists at this day between the present generation and the two that have preceded it. Of this family hearthstone interest in our political controversy with Great Britain, the subject of this sketch early partook. He read in the family newspaper with earnestness those

eloquent debates in Congress which we now calmly peruse in history, and became, while a boy, thoroughly acquainted with all those details of a great political debate which necessarily imparts vigor and energy to the mind.

Thus he became, in after life, an invaluable man to the town, representing its interests with a fearlessness and success which no other man at that time could have commanded.

In the spring of 1777, when he was in his eighteenth year, he removed with his father, deacon Jonathan Brewster, to this town. Soon after his age had entitled him to take a practical part in the business of the town, he was chosen to fill the most important offices in its gift. Having a good command of language, and being a sound reasoner, he was often appointed by the town to advocate their cause in differences with other towns. Before the Board of County Commissioners he presented the interests of the town seldom without success. In town meetings, as chairman, he presided with confidence and dignity. As a public speaker, though impulsive, and sometimes passionate, he was never listened to without attention and respect.

At seven different times he represented the town in the General Court, where he was respected for his ability, and often honored by being appointed as chairman upon important committees. He belonged to the Board of Selectmen during a number of years, and held important town trusts till near the time of his death.

In character, he was firm and unchangeable. He expressed his opinions hastily, confidently, and perhaps sometimes dogmatically; but no man in town ever weighed a subject more accurately, or viewed it in all of

its manifold bearings more scrutinizingly, than he. A man of strong prejudices, when once he had examined a subject and taken his position in regard to it, no motives could influence, no arguments persuade him to relinquish it. As a husband, he was kind and affectionate ; as a father, he was a thorough disciplinarian—austere, yet mingling kindness with austerity. He died in February, 1841, loved by the poor for his kindness, and respected by the rich for his integrity.

AZARIAH PARSONS was born in the town of Northampton, in the year 1761. He removed to this town at a period of its history the most cheerless and uninviting. The soldiers of the war, worn out with service and without money, were returning to their families, who could welcome them with nothing but indigence and want. The treasury of the town, too, where the poor and destitute were authorized to find protection against the sufferings of cold and hunger, had long been drained by the expenses of the war. At this time, 1782, most fortunately for the pecuniary interests of the town, Azariah Parsons, the most charitable and humane man known in the individual history of its early citizens, settled in this place. He was a man who earnestly sympathized with the poor in their suffering, and it was as natural for him to give to them the half of his goods as it was for Zacheus. There was a humanity in his nature, which was ever opening to the poor an avenue to his heart, and which was calling continually to the suffering and destitute to take shelter under the wings of his benevolence. Charity with him was considered a duty ; and the more cheerfully it was performed, the greater recompense he thought he should receive from that kind Being, who is a friend to

the friendless. Thus he visited, during his whole life, the families of the poor in town, sought out their wants and promptly relieved them of their destitution. He died on the 25th of May, 1846, and received as a recompense for his temporal charity the eternal benefaction of Him "who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb."

Closely following the early settlers of this town upon the stage of life, was a generation of men who not only inherited all of that individual firmness and self-reliance, which so eminently characterised their fathers, but also added to their hereditary excellencies, that refinement of character, which is gained by the privileges and opportunities of a more liberal education. As the branches of the banyan tree, which bend to the ground and take new root, grow up as strong as the parent stock, and whose timber, from the fineness of the grain, at the same time is better adapted to the wants of man; so the second generation of the inhabitants of this town grew up as strong in character as the first, yet with minds more refined, and with manners more polished. While the influences of the war, and the nature of the controversy which preceded it, exercised all of the intellectual faculties, and stimulated all of the energies of the soul, causing so many of the early settlers of the town to become valuable and controlling men, the history of this war, told as it was around the fireside at evening, and the investigation of those elementary principles of society and government which grew out of it, formed a class of individuals to succeed them, no less useful or influential. What the long series of sufferings and trials which the new settlement endured, and the hardships of a protracted war accomplished in forming the resolute characters of such

men as Nathaniel Daniels, Nahum Eager, Nathan Leonard and the elder Brewster, the history of the same and the practical knowledge derived from it, necessarily inspiring the noblest principles and awakening the highest energies, did to create that class of dignified men, of which the subject of this biographical sketch stood prominent.

WILLIAM WARD was born in the adjoining town of Cummington, on the 18th of May, 1781. His father dying when he was quite young, he removed to this town when he was but fourteen years of age, and entered the store of Mr. William Gove as clerk. His strict attention to business, and the faithful performance of his duties, won for him at an early age, the implicit confidence of his employer. At the age of seventeen, the entire business of the store was entrusted to his care; and it was at this time, while he was purchasing goods in Boston, that his ability and engaging manners gained for him a passport into the best society, and the acquaintance of such men as Fisher Ames, Josiah Quincy, and other distinguished gentlemen, whom it was his fortune to meet with, when his business called him to the city.

In 1805, he formed a matrimonial connection with Miss Elizabeth Gove, of Connecticut, daughter of Mr. William Gove, of an ancient and respectable family of that state. This lady, of whose virtues and exemplary piety, it were impossible to speak in terms of exaggeration, was, for a period of little short of half a century the cherished and affectionate partner of his life. By her kindness and amiable disposition, she robbed life of many of its cares and perplexities, and strewed his path through this world with the proofs of affection. The companion of his

youth and manhood was the comfort of his declining years, and to the close of life enjoyed the evidence of his warmest regard and affection. To her virtues, she united those endearing qualities which signalize the fulfilment of all the social duties, and adorn with grace, and fill with enjoyment, the tender relations of domestic life.

Soon after his marriage, he removed to "The Corners," and commenced business in his own name, which he continued with little or no intermission until within a few years of his death.

As a public man, he held during his life various offices of trust and distinction. At five different times, he represented the interests of the town, in the General Court of the Commonwealth. In 1826, he was chosen to fill a vacancy in the Senate, occasioned by the death of the Hon. Elihu Lyman. He accepted this office at the time of his election, but on account of his business, he did not take his seat in that body. Subsequently, he was chosen a member of the Senate for Hampshire county, which office he held during the years of 1836 and 1837. He also held, by the appointment of the state, a prominent place among that body of distinguished men, who were called to alter and amend the legislative enactments of the Commonwealth. As an officer of the United States Government, he was post-master for the town during eleven different administrations.

In 1851, the town with a commendable gratitude for his past services, and a unanimity of sentiment which will always be recollected with pleasure, honored him with the highest office in its gift. He accepted this office, probably with more just pride, than any honor, which during his life had ever been conferred upon him. He felt as if it was to be, as it proved, the last public testi-

mony borne by his townspeople to his character. No man ever left his neighbors and friends with a deeper sense of gratitude, or a higher appreciation of their confidence, than Col. Ward did, after his election as representative in 1851.

To the pleasant recollection of this confidence, was added the happy anticipations of a retreat to Holyoke, where, in the company of a beloved wife, and an affectionate daughter, he could retire whenever fatigued with the cares of legislative business. These fond anticipations never were realized. His wife was taken sick near the last of November, and died on the 14th of December following. He followed her corpse to his residence in this town, but his heart never left her. He died on Saturday, the 20th of December, 1851.

Col. Ward was one of those men, whose death creates a vacancy, so impressive, that it robs language of all of its powers of eulogy, and renders panegyric tame and profitless to those who knew him well. With the turf scarcely green upon his grave—to the young, who had the honor of his personal acquaintance, and in whose behalf he always manifested the warmest interest—to the middle aged, who sought with confidence his advice, and to the old man, who looked upon him as a friend—no commendation of his life and services, can be compared to that personal knowledge of his character, which was gained while he was in life; but to those who know less of the character of Col. Ward than his neighbors and townsmen, and to those, who, in after time, shall desire to look back with pride upon their native town, a record of some of his prominent qualities will not be entirely in vain.

The character of Col. Ward was formed at an early period of his life. Leaving his home when he was only

fourteen years of age, and entering soon after into the active and responsible duties of a mercantile business, he was taught before he had reached the threshold of manhood, that lesson of self-reliance, which germinates and quickens to growth all the latent energies of the mind. Having naturally a retentive memory, and a fondness for history, he commenced early in life to collect and treasure up in the storehouse of his mind, those facts and records of events, which in after life, became the sources of that unlimited information which he possessed. He had an ardent passion for the details of events, and those minute particulars of affairs passing around him, which other men scarcely notice and never retain. Thus he knew the name and age of every child — the genealogy of nearly every family in town, and the individual history of its members. To this power of gathering and retaining the particulars of events, his mind joined the faculty of generalising these details and arranging them into their respective classes. Hence arose his faculty of judging so correctly upon any subject which was brought before him, and of giving advice so judiciously to those who sought it.

In conversation, he was particularly interesting and instructive. Having an inexhaustible fund of information, no subject could be started, either in Church or State history, about which he could not relate something which would interest the most inattentive and phlegmatic listener. His literary taste was more refined, than that of most men of his time and circumstances. He read with delight the gorgeous imagery, and eloquent descriptions contained in the works of Burke, and perused with no less pleasure, the vigorous and terse letters of Junius. He was familiar with the writings of Shak-

speare, and read with an appreciating sense the epic poems of Milton.

As a public speaker he was indifferent, and it was seldom that he ventured to speak upon any subject before an audience; but as a writer, some of his reports, made while he was a member of the Senate, bear the marks of great perspicuity in diction and vigor in style.

He was conservative, as it regards his political opinions, but upon many subjects, the inquiring nature of his mind often betrayed his radicalism. To know the cause of all things, often led him to examine new theories in science and religion, and this habit of examination often caused him to view the exposition of any modern phenomena, whether physical or moral, with more leniency than he otherwise would have done.

As a citizen, he was entertaining and hospitable; as a neighbor, obliging and courteous; as a friend, he was especially kind to the young.

The vacancy which his death occasioned, extended not only through the neighborhood where he resided, and the town in which he lived, but to the heart of every one who had had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and the honor of his friendship.

The death of Col. Ward occasioned the following remarks, which were made in the Massachusetts Legislature, near the commencement of the session of 1852:

Mr. HOPKINS, of Northampton, arose and said:

MR. SPEAKER: It becomes my painful duty to announce to this house, the death of Hon. William Ward, of Worthington, a member elect of this body.

William Ward was born on the 18th of May, 1781, and died at his residence, in Worthington, on the 20th of December, 1851, in the 71st year of his age. He was bred and con-

tinued through life a merchant, with partial attention to farming interests. He was more than a common man. He was an extensive reader, possessed of a retentive memory, and kept himself well informed of current events. There were few men in the country whose knowledge of public affairs, of nations and governments, was superior to his. With a mind well stored and cultivated beyond most others in like situations, he became a friend, associate, and desirable and honorable companion of many of the most distinguished men of his time in the Western part of the state.

The public have borne testimony to his worth. He first represented the town of Worthington in this House in the years 1816 and 1817, and afterwards in the years 1831 and 1835. The county of Hampshire honored him with the trust of Senator in the years 1836 and 1837. The state honored him by calling him to serve on the committee for revising the statutes of the Commonwealth.

For forty-six years of his life he held the office of post master—a just tribute to his integrity, and a singular indication of the esteem in which he was held by all classes and parties.

He was a friend whose counsel and decision were extensively sought in his own and neighboring towns, and his death has left a vacancy in the community which must long be felt and lamented.

His wife died but six days before him. He was then in health; but ere she was laid in the grave, death commenced its work with the husband also. They were united in life, and were permitted, almost hand in hand, to pass the valley of the shadow of death.

But, sir, there is one circumstance which, more than all others, gives a peculiar impressiveness to the event in its relation to us. Had he been spared to take his seat here, the duty would have devolved on him of calling the House to order, and presiding over it through the preliminaries of its organization. But, sir, that hand which seemed destined to grasp your own in welcome to the chair you occupy, lies cold

in a snow-clad grave. That voice which seemed destined to offer the first official greeting to us all, is hushed in death. Our friend, our senior, is no more. We are here. He is amid other scenes and in other duties. There is but a step between us and our friend, between our position and duties here, and our position and duties there. May the thought, sir, chasten and hallow all our acts.

This notice, sir, I have felt was due to the memory of our departed friend, and due also to us, that we should properly note and improve the admonitions of Providence.

Having thus announced the death of Hon. William Ward, I move, sir, that a committee be appointed to report what order the House should take thereon.

Mr. KELLOGG, of Pittsfield, in seconding the motion, spoke as follows :

MR. SPEAKER: I second the motion, and I desire to add that Colonel Ward was almost as well known in Berkshire as in his own county of Hampshire; and the public there will, I am sure, cheerfully concur with the gentleman, in ascribing to the deceased the elevated character that we have heard. His life was, indeed, one of great usefulness to the people of the region where he lived. He possessed, as the gentleman has said, superior natural endowments, a highly cultivated general intelligence, a judgment unusually sound and discriminating; all his conduct was directed by the strictest integrity; and he has been, through his whole life, hailed by all who knew him or felt his influence, as a chief counsellor in all the affairs of life.

I sincerely sympathize with his children and relatives under their sudden and severe bereavement; and I sympathize also with the people of Worthington and the neighboring region, who have lost so great and patriarchal a character; and allow me to say, furthermore, that I deplore that, in the providence of God, Colonel Ward could not join us in the public duties of the session, where he would certainly

have commanded the same universal esteem from his associates that he used to enjoy amongst our predecessors, and where he would have amply justified, before our eyes, the eulogy that the gentleman from Northampton has paid to his character and services.

The motion was adopted, and Messrs. Hopkins of Northampton, Kellogg of Pittsfield, Lincoln of Boston, Fay of Southboro, and Allen of Tisbury, were appointed on the committee, and they reported the following :

Resolved, That the House of Representatives has learned with grief of the decease of the Hon. William Ward, a member elect of this body from the town of Worthington.

Resolved, That the House bears cordial testimony to the worth, the integrity, and the eminent public services of the deceased, and is deeply sensible of the loss which it has sustained in being thus deprived of his counsels.

Resolved, That the House deeply sympathizes with the family and friends of the deceased in their bereavement.

Resolved, That copies of the foregoing resolves be transmitted to the family and friends of the deceased, and to the selectmen of the town of Worthington.

Resolved, That as a further testimony of respect for the memory of the deceased, the House do now adjourn.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted, and accordingly the House adjourned.

A list of the Representatives of the town of Worthington to the Provincial Congress, and to the General Court of the State of Massachusetts, with the year in which they were chosen by the town, affixed to their respective names.

MOSES MORSE, Agent to Provincial Congress, 1773.

MOSES MORSE, Representative to General Court, 1777.

NAHUM EAGER, Representative to Provincial Congress, 1774.

NAHUM EAGER, Representative to General Court, 1781, 1783, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1794, 1796, 1797.

NATHAN LEONARD, Representative to General Court, 1775.

Dea. JONATHAN BREWSTER, Representative to General Court, 1778, 1779, 1782, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1793, 1795.

HON. EZRA STARKWETHER, Representative to General Court, 1788, 1798, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803.

MATHEW WARNER, Representative to General Court, 1799.

JONATHAN WOODBRIDGE, Representative to General Court, 1804, 1805, 1807.

ELISHA BREWSTER, Representative to General Court, 1806.

JONATHAN BREWSTER, Jr., Representative to General Court, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1813, 1819, 1831.

SAMUEL HOWE, Representative to General Court, 1812.

JOSIAH MILLS, Representative to General Court, 1814, 1815, 1822, 1829, 1835.

HON. WM. WARD, Representative to General Court, 1816, 1817, 1831, 1834, 1851.

TROWBRIDGE WARD, Representative to General Court, 1820, 1821.

JONAH BREWSTER, Representative to General Court, 1823, 1832, 1833.

RANSLOE DANIELS, Representative to General Court, 1836, 1845.

CHANCEY B. RISING, Representative to General Court, 1838, 1840.

JAMES BENTON, Representative to General Court, 1839.

AMES BURR, Representative to General Court, 1841, 1842,

ETHAN C. RING, Representative to General Court, 1843,
1844.

ELISHA H. BREWSTER, Representative to General Court,
1847, 1852.

ELBRIDGE HAZEN, Representative to General Court, 1848.

ETHAN BARNES, Representative to General Court, 1849,
1850.

A list of the Selectmen of the town, from its incorporation to the present time.

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| 1768. Nathan Leonard,
Nathaniel Daniels,
John Kinne. | 1777. Nathan Leonard,
Thomas Kinne,
Joseph Marsh. |
| 1769. Thomas Kinne,
Moses Morse,
Samuel Clapp. | 1778. Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
Timothy Meech,
John Skiff. |
| 1770. Nathan Leonard,
Nathaniel Daniels,
Nahum Eager. | 1779. Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
Moses Porter,
William Burr. |
| 1771. Joseph Marsh,
John Kinne,
Alexander Miller. | 1780. Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
Moses Porter,
Joshua Philips,
Nathaniel Daniels,
Zephaniah Hatch. |
| 1772. Ebenezer Leonard,
Joseph Marsh,
Alexander Miller. | 1781. Nahum Eager,
John Kinne,
Jonathan Prentice. |
| 1773. Nathaniel Daniels,
Nahum Eager,
Thomas Kinne. | 1782. Nahum Eager,
Samuel Woods,
Stephen Fitch. |
| 1774. Nahum Eager,
Nathaniel Daniels,
John Kinne. | 1783. John Watts,
Stephen Fitch,
Samuel Woods. |
| 1775. Nathaniel Daniels,
Jonathan Prentice,
Jeremiah Kinne. | 1784. Nahum Eager,
Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
John Kinne. |
| 1776. Ebenezer Leonard,
Thomas Kinne,
Moses Morse. | |

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| 1785. Nahum Eager,
Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
Job. Marsh. | 1803. Jonathan Brewster, Jr.,
Jonathan Woodbridge,
Nathan Hazen. |
| 1786. Nahum Eager,
Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
John Kinne. | 1804. Jonathan Woodbridge,
Roger Benjamin,
Elijah Curtis. |
| 1787. Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
Nathan Branch,
Ezra Leonard. | 1805. Roger Benjamin,
Elijah Curtis,
Azariah Parsons. |
| 1788. Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
John Kinne,
Ezra Leonard. | 1806. Ezra Leonard,
Cyrus Stowell,
Trowbridge Ward. |
| 1789, { Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
1790. { Mathew Warner,
Thadeus Chapin. | 1807. Ezra Leonard,
Trowbridge Ward,
John Stone. |
| 1791, { Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
1792. { Mathew Warner,
Nathan Branch. | 1808. Jonathan Brewster, Jr.,
Trowbridge Ward,
John Stone. |
| 1793. Jonathan Woodbridge,
Rufus Marsh,
Israel Burr. | 1809, { Jonathan Brewster, Jr.,
1810. { John Stone,
Josiah Mills. |
| 1794. Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
Nahum Eager,
Mathew Warner. | 1811, { Jonathan Brewster, Jr.,
1812. { Josiah Mills,
1813. { Roger Benjamin. |
| 1795. Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
Mathew Warner,
Jonathan Woodbridge. | 1814, { Ezra Starkwether,
1815. { Azariah Parsons,
1816. { Cyprean Parish. |
| 1796. Dea. Jonathan Brewster,
Rufus Marsh,
Nathan Branch. | 1817. Ezra Starkwether,
Cyprean Parish,
Azariah Parsons. |
| 1797, { Rufus Marsh,
1798. { Elisha Brewster,
Samuel Cook. | 1818. Trowbridge Ward,
Joseph Marsh,
James Kelley. |
| 1799. Elisha Brewster,
Samuel Cook,
Ezra Leonard. | 1819, { Jonah Brewster,
1820. { Josiah Mills,
Roger Benjamin. |
| 1800. Ezra Leonard,
Samuel Cook,
Joseph Marsh. | 1821, { Jonah Brewster,
1822. { Trowbridge Ward,
William Eager. |
| 1801. Samuel Cook,
Jonathan Brewster, Jr.,
Eliashib Adams, Jr. | 1823. Jonah Brewster,
William Eager,
John Stone, Jr. |
| 1802. Samuel Cook,
Jonathan Brewster, Jr.,
Jonathan Woodbridge. | 1824, { Jonah Brewster,
1825. { John Stone Jr.,
Timothy Austin. |

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| 1826. | Jonah Brewster,
John Stone, Jr.,
Joseph Bardwell. | 1840. | Ransloe Daniels,
Elkanah Ring,
Russel Bartlett. |
| 1827,
1828. | {
Jonah Brewster,
John Stone, Jr.,
Gorham Cottrell. | 1841,
1842. | {
Ransloe Daniels,
Ames Burr,
Russel Bartlett. |
| 1829. | William Coit,
Ansel Burr,
Lathrop Reed. | 1843. | Ransloe Daniels,
Elkanah Ring,
Russel Bartlett. |
| 1830. | Jonah Brewster,
Ansel Burr,
Jeremiah Phillips. | 1844. | Russel Bartlett,
John Adams,
Elbridge Hazen. |
| 1831. | Josiah Mills,
Ansel Burr,
Jeremiah Phillips. | 1845. | John Adams,
Elbridge Hazen,
Oren Stone. |
| 1832,
1833. | {
Clement Burr,
Jeremiah Phillips,
Luther Granger. | 1846. | John Adams,
Elbridge Hazen,
Tilson Bartlett. |
| 1834. | Ransloe Daniels,
Ames Burr,
Oren Stone. | 1847,
1848. | {
Elbridge Hazen,
Azariah Parsons,
Oren Stone. |
| 1835,
1836. | {
James Benton,
Elkanah Ring,
Azariah Parsons. | 1849,
1850,
1851. | {
Russel Bartlett,
Milton Brewster,
Ethan Barnes. |
| 1837. | C. B. Rising,
Jeremiah Phillips,
Ames Burr. | 1852. | Elisha H. Brewster,
Jotham Clark,
James Bisbee. |
| 1838. | Ransloe Daniels,
Ames Burr,
Elkanah Ring. | 1853. | Jotham Clark,
James Bisbee,
William H. Bates. |
| 1839. | Norman Allen,
Luther Granger,
James Bisbee. | | |

*A list of the Professional men who have resided in the town of
Worthington.*

PHYSICIANS.

Doctor Morse,	Doctor D. Peirce,
“ E. Starkwether,	“ H. Starkwether,
“ Marsh,	“ Wheeler,
“ Brewster,	“ Bois,
“ Porter,	“ Colt,
“ Richards,	“ Brown,
“ Dwight,	“ Prevost,
“ Spear,	“ Lyman,
“ Rodgers,	“ Knowlton,
“ Case,	“ Freeland,
“ Peirce,	“ Smith,
“ Mekins,	“ A. Peirce.
“ Holland,	

LAWYERS.

Joseph Lyman,	Jonathan Woodbridge,
Samuel Howe,	Elisha Mack,
Daniel Parish,	Chancey B. Rising.

PASTORS.

Rev. Jonathan Huntington,	Rev. Henry Adams,
Josiah Spaulding,	John H. Bisbee.
Jonathan Law. Pomeroy,	

Productions of Agriculture, &c., in the Town of Worthington, in the year 1850.

Population.	237	No. of Families.	220	No. of Dwellings.	137	Valuation of Real estate.	\$200,213	Valuation of Personal property.	\$77,666	ACRES OF LAND.	Improved.	13,143	Unimproved.	3,955	Cash value of Farms.	\$253,455	Value of Farming implements and machinery.	\$6,515	LIVE STOCK ON THE FIRST JUNE.													
1,134											Improved.		Unimproved.						Horses.	141	Milch Cows.	379	Working Oxen.	170	Other Cattle.	496	Sheep.	5,129	Swine.	126	Value of Live Stock.	\$39,450

PRODUCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING FIRST JUNE.

Wheat, bushels of.	565	Rye, bushels of.	130	Indian Corn, bu. of.	3,089	Oats, bushels of.	3,406	Wool, lbs. of.	15,745	Peas and Beans, bush. of.	168	Irish Potatoes, bush. of.	14,126	Barley, bush. of.	1,015	Buckwheat, bu. of.	1,126	Value of Orchard Products in dol's.	\$1,022	Butter, lbs. of.	32,217	Cheese, lbs. of.	8,775	Hay, tons of.	3,191	Maple sugar, lbs. of.	25,002	Maple Molasses, gallons of.	427	Beeswax and Honey, lbs. of.	180	Value of Home-made manufact's.	\$475	Value of animals slaughtered.	\$4,378
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ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY

OF WORTHINGTON,

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWN TO JULY 1,
1853.

BY THE REV. J. H. BISBEE.

THE first settlers of Worthington had been reared under the influence of the gospel. Like most New Englanders, they had been trained to "fear God and keep his commandments," and sacredly to regard Divine institutions and ordinances. To these they were strongly attached, not only from principle, but by the force of education also. When they sought their home in the mountain wilderness, they took their religion with them, and not only made early and ample provision for the support of public worship, but as soon as practicable adopted measures for the full enjoyment of all gospel ordinances. Like wise christian men, they correctly judged that both their temporal and eternal well-being demanded the institutions of religion, and that if they would lay a broad and firm foundation for the prosperity and true elevation of themselves and

their posterity to the latest generation, they must do it in christianity. Though poor in the things of this world, they could not afford to live without the privileges of the gospel, by means of which they might become rich in faith. As soon, therefore, as a sufficient number of professors of religion had become permanently established in the place to warrant it, measures were taken to gather them into one body, or branch of the visible church of Christ. A church was organized April 1st, A. D. 1771, composed of the following individuals, viz :

Thomas Kinne,	Grace Buck,
Ebenezer Leonard,	Sarah Pettengil,
Nathaniel Daniels,	Sibil Holton,
Thomas Clemans,	Meribah Converse,
Ephraim Wheeler,	Sarah Huntington,
Jonathan Huntington,	— Biggelow,
Hannah Kinne,	Eunice Morse,
Lydia Marsh,	Joseph Marsh,
Nathan Leonard,	Israel Holton,
Benjamin Biggelow,	David Jewit,
Moses Soul,	James Bemiss,
Samuel Convers,	Elizabeth Bemiss,
Edmund Pettengil,	Ellenor Soul,
Priscilla Benjamin,	Dorothy Daniels,
Anna Williams,	Abigail Mehurin.

These individuals, “solemnly, and in the presence of the heart-searching God,” entered into covenant with each other, and unanimously, and with “hearty consent,” adopted a “confession of faith,” which is still retained by the church, until the present day, unaltered. In this confession of faith, they declared their belief in the sacred scriptures as the word of God, and adopted these as their only unerring rule of faith and practice.

Their views of the particular doctrines of the bible, may be clearly understood by the following declaration: "In general we declare our approbation of the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechism, as for the substance of it, agreeable to our belief in the doctrines of christianity." And though they specified several of the leading doctrines of the gospel, and adopted some few and simple rules, by which to regulate their proceedings, they, at the same time, discarded all servile bondage to any human formula or discipline. In their own language, "We agree that the word of God is a sufficient rule as well for the practice and discipline of the church, as the doctrine of faith, and that human compositions on the subject of church discipline are to be used only as helps and means, for the better understanding of God's word." And without casting any reflections upon other denominations of christians, or forms of church government and modes of discipline, or setting up any claim of special divine right in favor of their own views, they very modestly said, "In general, it is our opinion that what is called the Congregational form of church government and discipline, is in the main agreeable to the word of God." This form they adopted. It was manifestly their aim to build a church, "upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone."

Having organized a church, they immediately sought a pastor to labor among them, and be over them in the Lord. They correctly judged that their spiritual interests would be best promoted by a settled permanent ministry. Their first pastor was Rev. Jonathan Huntington, who was ordained to the work of the ministry

and settled over them, June 26, A. D. 1771. He was a native of Windham, Connecticut, and belonged to one of the most distinguished families in that state. The names of his father and brothers stand high in the records of the past. How or where Mr. Huntington was educated, does not now appear. It is known, however, that he first entered the medical profession, in which he evidently became somewhat eminent. For what particular reason he changed his profession is not now apparent. From what may now be learned respecting him, it is very evident that he was by nature peculiarly mild and amiable, and by grace, a man of deep-toned piety, and irreproachable christian character. As might naturally be expected of such a man, he won the confidence and secured the esteem and affection of the church and people. He was removed by death, March 11, A. D. 1781, at the age of 48 years. As he lived beloved by all who knew him, so, when he died, and devout men carried him to his burial, great lamentation was made over him.

Under the ministry of Mr. Huntington, the church was generally prosperous. The additions, however, for the first nine years were few, and those mostly by letter. In 1780, the last year of his life, fifty-three were received into the church. And though no record is left of any special awakening, or general out-pouring of the spirit, yet the increase of professors plainly shows that such a season was enjoyed.

After the death of Mr. Huntington, the church remained several successive years without a pastor. Different individuals were employed to preach, some of whom were invited to settle, but declined the invitation. Under this course of procedure the church did

not prosper, and religion evidently very much declined, as is frequently, if not usually the case where an unsettled and fluctuating ministry is employed.

The second pastor of the church was Rev. Josiah Spalding. He was a native of Plainfield, Connecticut, and was educated at Yale College. He had been previously settled at Uxbridge, Mass. Being dismissed from his charge there, he came to Worthington, where he was duly installed, August 21, A. D. 1788. He remained but a short time. Many became dissatisfied with him, in consequence of which he was dismissed in 1794. He was subsequently settled in Buckland, Franklin county, where he remained until the time of his death.

He was, evidently, somewhat eccentric, though a man of full ordinary powers of mind. He published a valuable, and somewhat popular octavo volume, entitled, "Universalism confounds and destroys itself." Some of his sermons also appeared in print. There was, evidently, great excitement respecting his dismissal. Several meetings of the church were held before any definite action was taken. At length a committee was appointed, and charges were preferred against the minister. The most important of these may be summarily expressed as follows, viz: A change of religious doctrine; immorality in practice, and delinquency in duty. Either of these three charges, if sustained, would, according to Congregational principles and usages, have worked a forfeiture of his ministerial standing.

The charge of neglect, related to visiting the sick, and the people in general; that of immorality, was falsehood and fraud; but in what particular doctrine

he was thought to have changed, does not appear from the record. An ecclesiastical council was at length called to investigate these charges, and give advice. The result was that not one of them was sustained. The council endorsed both his sentiments and his character, and bore honorable testimony in favor of his piety. They recommended him, as an example of meekness, fidelity and charity. Their language, further, is: "We find no fault in Mr. Spalding which should operate as a reason for the dissolution of his pastoral relation; nevertheless, there is such a large number of the church and town so dissatisfied with him as their minister, that it is not for the interest of religion for him to continue here."

Though several were received to the church, under the ministry of Mr. Spalding, still the number was small. No general religious interest appears to have been awakened, and no special season of revival enjoyed.

The third pastor of the church was Rev. Jonathan S. Pomeroy. He was born in the parish of Greenfield, in the town of Fairfield, Connecticut. His father was a clergyman and pastor of the church in that place, where he died in the meridian of life. Mr. Pomeroy was thus early in life left without a father; and for some reason, his mother, who had charge of his education, did not send him to college. He received both his classical and theological education under the instruction of Rev. Timothy Dwight, D. D., who was subsequently President of Yale College. Dr. Dwight was, at that time, pastor of the church, and preceptor of an academy at Greenfield. But, though without the advantages of a college, Mr. Pomeroy was still a ripe scholar, particularly in the languages. He read Latin and Greek fluently, and was

almost as familiar with the French as with his mother tongue. The degree of Master of Arts was conferred on him by Yale College. He was ordained, and settled over the church in Worthington, November 26, A. D. 1794, where he remained until 1832, a period of thirty-eight years. And though at the time of his settlement, a portion of the people were not satisfied with him, and even laid before the ordaining council a formal protest against their procedure, still the length of his pastorate conclusively shows that he must have soon secured, and retained, the confidence of the people generally. In 1832, he was, at his own urgent request, honorably dismissed. He soon after removed to Feeding Hills, a parish in West Springfield, where he lived mostly in retirement until his death, which occurred June 4, 1836. His age was sixty-seven years. He possessed a valuable property, most of which he bequeathed to benevolent societies. He published a volume of practical sermons, several of which were preached on special occasions. Some other writings of his may also be found in print. He was a man of more than ordinary powers of mind. His perception was quick, his penetration keen, and his memory was uncommonly retentive. The man who met him in intellectual contest, usually found him with his armor on, and ready for use. On account of some bodily infirmities, real or imaginary, his habits of study, during some of the last years of his life, were not rigid; his preaching was mainly extempore, and often rather desultory. From his personal appearance, the stranger would think him cold, distant and austere. But they who knew him best, and most frequently partook of his liberal hospitality, found him social, affable, and exceedingly warm-hearted. In religious sentiment, he was

strictly evangelical, and dealt with error and errorists with great plainness, and sometimes with peculiar severity. He regarded himself as "set for the defence of the gospel," and would make no compromise with what he regarded as error, or with those who preached it. He possessed an uncommon share of moral courage and firmness. He was not often, if ever, known to shrink from what he honestly believed his duty.

Under the ministry of Mr. Pomeroy, the church was generally prosperous, and religion flourishing. Revivals were frequent, and some of them extensive and powerful. Some of these demand more than a passing notice. In 1798, a work of special grace commenced, which continued until the following year. As the fruit of this refreshing, fifty-four were admitted to the church; some of whom still remain, though nearly all have long since "fallen asleep."

Another season of refreshing was enjoyed in 1808. God appears to have shaken the whole place at that time, and sifted the people. The power of the Holy Ghost seems to have been almost as signally displayed as on the memorable day of Pentecost. The following is an extract from an entry, made in the church records, at the time, by Mr. Pomeroy: "Be it forever remembered to the glory of all conquering grace, that after a long, dark and stupid time, thirty six persons having before made a public relation of their religious experience in the meeting house, united with this church on the first day of May 1808." These were, however, but the first fruits of that revival. During that year, one hundred and thirteen were received to the church.

In 1819 was another season of special mercy. In the language of Mr. Pomeroy: "A glorious season of the

grace of God began here about the time of the State Fast." That work was also very general. All parts of the town, if not all families, shared in it. One hundred individuals were admitted to the church during that year.

The church was blessed with another revival in the year 1827. This was neither so powerful nor so general as some of the preceding. Thirty-two were admitted to the church as the fruit of it.

Besides these remarkable seasons of general religious interest, there were many others, the same in kind, though less in extent and power. Additions were made to the church nearly or quite every year. Probably one-fourth or one-third of all received into communion, were gathered in when there was no general awakening. This would indicate a healthy state of morals and religion generally.

The preceding statement of facts is sufficient, and even more than sufficient, to correct one of the gross misrepresentations which has been made, and extensively circulated, in relation to Mr. Pomeroy. It has been said, and extensively published, and is believed by many, especially in some of the neighboring towns, to this day, that he was opposed to revivals of religion, and that few, if any, were enjoyed under his ministry.

The records of the past set this matter in its true light. They show, to a demonstration, that the church, during his pastorate, was peculiarly blessed with such seasons, probably far beyond that of any other church in the vicinity. And the entries, which he made upon the records at different times, clearly show that his whole heart was engaged in the work of promoting them.

It is true that, in the latter part of his ministry, he did oppose the introduction of certain novelties, technically called "New Measures," for the promotion of revivals of religion. He regarded them as innovations, and pernicious in their effects. In this opinion he was not alone.

Probably a majority of the pastors of Congregational churches in Massachusetts, agreed with him then, and no doubt a still greater number would now, after having seen the results so clearly manifested.

The fourth pastor of the church was Rev. Henry Adams. He was settled December 25, 1833, and was dismissed in 1838, on account of the loss of his health. As he is still living, it is unnecessary to speak minutely of him. Suffice it to say, that he is a native of Worthington. He received his classical education at Amherst College, and his theological at Andover Seminary. Since his removal from Worthington, he has regained his health, and resumed the labors of the ministry. He has been settled in Bolton and Berlin, in Worcester county. During his pastorate, the church was in a state of general health and prosperity. Additions were made to it yearly. In 1837, more than usual religious interest was manifested. The spirit descended like the gently refreshing dew, as the fruit of which, nineteen were received to the church by profession.

Rev. John H. Bisbee, the present pastor of the church, was settled in December, 1838. He was born in the town of Chesterfield; but his parents being members of the church in Worthington, he was baptized by Rev. Mr. Pomeroy, and brought up under his ministry. He was graduated at Union College, and received his theological education in part at Auburn, New-York, and

the remainder under the instruction of Rev. Mr. Chapin, then pastor of the church in Westhampton.

Mr. Bisbee was first settled in the adjoining town of Middlefield, where he labored in the ministry five years. Since his settlement in Worthington, the church has generally been in a prosperous condition. Additions have been made to it, by profession, every year except one. Special seasons of grace have also been enjoyed. In the fall of 1842, a revival of religion commenced, which continued through the following winter and spring; as the result of which, forty-eight were received into the church, by profession. Another similar season began about the commencement of 1850, which continued nearly through the whole year. The spirit came not as the mighty rushing wind, but as the still small voice, speaking in whispers to the soul. As the fruit of this revival, forty-nine were received into the church. Besides those gathered in times of general awakening, others, though in smaller numbers, have been added at other seasons. Under the ministry of the present pastor, including some few received by letter, more than two hundred have been admitted to the church. The whole number received since its organization, is not far from nine hundred. And yet, notwithstanding these numerous accessions, so frequent have been the removals by death and dismissal, that only two hundred and twenty-six members remain at the present time, (July 1st, 1853.)

The following persons have held the office of deacon in this church, viz:

Joseph Marsh,	Nathan Leonard,
Joshua Phillips,	Jonathan Brewster,
Rufus Marsh,	Ezra Leonard,
Ebenezer Niles,	Asahel Prentice,
Charles Starkweather,	Azariah Parsons,
Daniel Pierce,	Asa Marble,
Normand Allen,	Lyman White,
Schuyler R. Wilbur.	

Of the five pastors of this church, only two now survive; and of the fifteen deacons, only four. It may reasonably be supposed that an equally large proportion of the private members of the church have "fallen asleep," as of its officers. Thus "one generation passeth away, and another generation cometh."

There was but one church organization in the town of Worthington, and but one congregation of worshippers on the Sabbath, until 1828. During that year, a Methodist Episcopal church was formed in the southeastern part of the town. A congregation was gathered, composed of individuals residing in Worthington, Chesterfield, Norwich and Chester. Public worship was established, and a plain, substantial meeting-house erected. They were, for several years, supplied with preachers from the Conference. More recently they have changed their organization and connection. The church is now called Wesleyan. They manage their own affairs, procure and contract with their own ministers.

Within a few years past, they have abandoned their first house of worship, as inadequate to their wants, and with commendable liberality, have erected a more beautiful, elegant, and commodious one. God has often

visited this church in mercy ; precious seasons of revival have been enjoyed ; and it is believed that many souls have been gathered into the fold of Christ.

In 1848, a Methodist Episcopal church was formed in the northwestern part of the town, and soon after a plain, comfortable house of worship was erected. This church is connected with the Troy Conference, from which it is supported with preachers. Some seasons of special religious interest have also been enjoyed there. The congregation is gathered mainly from Worthington and Peru.

The history of the past, though extending to a single town or church only, as well as that which embraces nations and empires, illustrates the providence and grace of God. He who reads it, and does not see the Divine hand in the persons who have been raised up, in the events that have taken place, and the scenes which have been exhibited, must be blind to some of its most prominent and expressive features ; and must hence lose more than half the benefit, if not an equal share of the pleasure, of its perusal. Emphatically is it true that "God is in history." In the brief narrative which has now been given, He is too manifest to be unseen, and the impress of His hand is too legibly inscribed on the record to be erased. May the reader here see and acknowledge God, and learn lessons of heavenly wisdom from the past. As he stands among the graves, and treads upon the dust of his ancestors, may he be invited, by the record of their actions and character, to emulate their virtues, and to perform similar deeds of patriotism, philanthropy, benevolence and religion.

This brief history gives us impressive lessons of instruction upon the shortness of human life, the uncertainty of

earthly good, the mutability of the world, and the rapidity with which its scenes change. Yet, be it remembered, that the length of life should be measured, rather by the amount and character of its deeds, than by the number of its years. "That life is long which answers life's great end;" and that life is short, however numerous its years, which runs to waste. A short flight with the eagle among the stars, is more valuable than a long race with the reptile in the dust. Happy he, who, while passing through the changing scenes of earth, becomes, by the power of divine grace, thoroughly prepared for his own last great change, and fitted to awaken from the slumbers of the grave in the likeness of God.

ERRATA.

Page 10, ninth line from bottom, read "David" instead of *Daniel* Brunson.

" 11, sixth-line from bottom, read "William H." instead of *Henry* Bates.
And read "Hickbey," instead of *Hickey*.

